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Advancement of women

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Letter dated 4 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the agreed conclusions for strengthening the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovenia (see annex). The conclusions were adopted at the Conference on the Implementation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Central and East Europe, held in Dubrovnik on 26 October 2003.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Third Committee of the General Assembly under the agenda items 110 and 117 (a).

(*Signed*) Vladimir **Drobnjak**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Agreed conclusions for strengthening the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovenia — adopted at the Conference on the Implementation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Central and Eastern Europe, held in Dubrovnik on 26 October 2003

In order to strengthen the implementation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and national reporting systems for timely periodic reporting according to article 18 of the Convention, the Governments of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovenia should:

- Use the process of the preparation and presentation of the national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to raise awareness of women's human rights and as an instrument for fostering change at the national levels;
- Strengthen their national machineries for gender equality and their capacity for reporting on and implementation of the Convention by providing them with adequate visibility, authority, human and financial resources and by enhancing their capacity to coordinate and initiate actions for the promotion of gender equality;
- Organize the process of preparation and presentation of the national reports as a continuous and periodic process rather than a one-time event;
- Make sustained efforts in the way of follow up action to the Committee's concluding comment;
- Further strengthen the role of relevant ministries for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the treaty body system;
- Raise the visibility of the Convention reporting process and consider the adoption of the Committee's report by the Government and its discussion by the Parliament before sending it to the Committee;
- Involve non-governmental organizations in the process of preparing the reports through inviting non-governmental organizations to submit their views and opinions on the implementation of the Convention, and through organizing hearings where the Government would present its report to non-governmental organizations;
- Make reports accessible to wider public in the form of hard copies and in electronic format;
- Raise awareness on the Convention and ensure wider dissemination of the translations of the Convention (including its new official translations), its Optional Protocol, periodic reports to the Committee and the concluding comments and recommendations;

- Enhance the knowledge of legal status of the Convention among students, judiciary and lawyers, including specific training of judges;
- Use two sets of indicators on equal participation of women in political and public life and on addressing domestic violence against women in the reporting and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and continue their cooperation in development of indicators for other areas addressed by the Convention, such as employment and economic empowerment (articles 11 and 13);
- Explore the possibility of sharing the lessons learned on the questionnaire on implementation and reporting process and indicators developed on equal participation of women in political and public life and on addressing domestic violence with other interested countries and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Fund for Women.